

REMARKS

This Amendment responds to the office action dated October 29, 2007.

The examiner has rejected claims 1, 6, 8 and 10-16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Costello (U.S. 5,547,178) (hereinafter Costello).

Applicant asserts that this rejection is improper because it fails to present a prima facie case of anticipation. These claims have been amended in the past to point out that these claimed embodiments comprise a single, integral, modified print job file that comprises a job separator page that is combined with the original print job and wherein the print job comprises a single start job command and a single end job command.

Costello does not disclose a single, integrated, modified print job file comprising the original print job and a job separator page with a single start job command and a single end job command. Costello teaches a method of automatically generating a banner sheet whenever a mailbox unit requires splitting a job in a location other than where it was expected. (col. 13, lines 36-47) The banner sheet taught in Costello is a separate (col.16, lines26-29) and distinct print job and is not combined with the original print job to create a new single, integral, modified print job as taught in the present invention. Costello does not teach any form of single, integral, modified print job that comprises a job separator page.

Some confusion may result from the non-standard definition of “print job” used in Costello. Costello defines a “print job” as “related, e.g., page order, plural sheets documents or copies” (col. 4, lines 52-56). To avoid this confusion, applicant has qualified the integral, single print job of the present claims to have only a single start job

command and a single end job command. Therefore the claimed invention is a single, integral print unit that cannot be separated and is not an accumulation of “related,” but separable documents or sheets that contains multiple start and end job commands for each related unit.

Costello discloses the creation of a job separator page that is inserted after or before a print job to identify the location of portions of the print job that have been rerouted to a different destination. Costello does not describe the integration or combination of the job separator page into the actual print job, but simply discloses a method for sending a job separator page to the same destination as the portions of the print job.

The combination or integration of the job separator page into the print job ensures that the job separator page cannot be separated from the rest of the print job. This functional difference distinguishes from the multiple-document separator pages taught in Costello.

Because these elements are not disclosed in Costello, these claims are allowable, as amended, and the applicant respectfully requests that the examiner withdraw this rejection.

Regarding claims 6, 8 and 10-11, each of these claims is dependent on claim 1, comprises all the elements thereof, and is, therefore, patentable for the reasons stated above in regard to claim 1.

Claims 12 - 15 comprise elements similar to those in claim 1 and are believed to be patentable for the reasons stated above in relation to claim 1. Claim 12 also comprises

the element of “creating a single, integral, modified spool file comprising said original print job data with print job separator page commands inserted therein between a spool file header and an end of job command.” This element is also not found in Costello.

Claims 2-5, 7 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Costello (U.S. 5,547,178) (hereinafter Costello) in view of Snipp (U.S. 5,699,495) (hereinafter Snipp).

Claims 2-5, 7 and 9 are dependent on claim 1, which comprises elements as stated above. In this rejection the examiner relies on Costello to disclose a job separator page and on Snipp to disclose print system components. Snipp teaches nothing about job separator pages, but discloses distributed print driver systems where print drivers are stored on a print server. Snipp discloses the existence of a print processor and a spooler and other print system components, but no reference is made to their use in a job separator page system. One skilled in-the-art would not even think to combine Snipp with Costello as there is no connection between Snipp’s distributed print drivers and the job separator pages of Costello.

While this combination may teach these separate, unrelated elements, the combination does not teach a print job and job separator page combined into an integral file with a single start or header command and a single end of file command as claimed in the current claims. Accordingly, the examiner is requested to reconsider this rejection in light of the amendments.

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Based on the foregoing remarks, the Applicant respectfully requests
reconsideration and allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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